

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain pending.

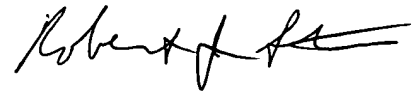
Claims 2-3, 11-12, 16-17, 20-21 and 25-26 are now rewritten in independent form. The amended claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims on which they formerly depended, except that the phrase "only slightly" is deleted.

Each of claims 1-27 is patentable for the reasons argued in the amendment filed 6/11/01.

Applicant wishes to alert the Examiner to an error in the initial sentence of the Preliminary Remarks that were filed together with the present continuation application. Contrary to that erroneous initial sentence, the present application is not a divisional, and the claims pending do not correspond to claims of the parent application that were canceled in response to a restriction requirement. Instead, the claims in the present application are based on the rejected claims that were canceled in the parent in order to permit a patent to issue on the claims that were allowed.

A divisional application SN 09/631,060 was filed concurrently with the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amended Claims — Marked Up to Show Changes

1 2. (amended) A method [according to claim 1,] of adjusting the two-way communication range of an
2 RFID system to permit a person to individually handle and interrogate each one of a plurality of tagged
3 objects, each tagged object having an RFID tag transceiver, comprising the steps of:
4 mounting on the person an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna;
5 mounting on each tagged object an RFID tag transceiver, wherein
6 each tag transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
7 which control a reliable two-way communications range between that tag transceiver and the
8 interrogator transceiver, and
9 the interrogator transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance
10 parameters which control the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
11 transceiver and any of the tag transceivers; and
12 adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way
13 communications range between the interrogator transceiver and the tag transceiver of each of the tagged
14 objects exceeds the closest distance, during times when the person handles that tagged object, between
15 the antenna of the interrogator and the tag transceiver mounted on that tagged object;
16 wherein the adjusting step further comprises adjusting said at least one of the performance
17 parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when the
18 person handles a tagged object, no other tagged object being handled by any other person is within
19 reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator.

1 3. (amended) A method [according to claim 1,] of adjusting the two-way communication range of an
2 RFID system to permit a person to individually handle and interrogate each one of a plurality of tagged
3 objects, each tagged object having an RFID tag transceiver, comprising the steps of:
4 mounting on the person an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna;
5 mounting on each tagged object an RFID tag transceiver, wherein
6 each tag transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
7 which control a reliable two-way communications range between that tag transceiver and the
8 interrogator transceiver, and
9 the interrogator transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance
10 parameters which control the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
11 transceiver and any of the tag transceivers; and
12 adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way
13 communications range between the interrogator transceiver and the tag transceiver of each of the tagged

14 objects exceeds the closest distance, during times when the person handles that tagged object, between
15 the antenna of the interrogator and the tag transceiver mounted on that tagged object;

16 wherein the adjusting step further comprises adjusting said at least one of the performance
17 parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when the
18 person handles a tagged object, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way communication range
19 of the interrogator.

1 11. (amended) An RFID interrogator [Interrogator] apparatus [according to claim 10,] having an
2 adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the
3 closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, wherein each tagged object has a respective RFID
4 tag transceiver attached thereto, comprising:

5 an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
6 which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any
7 of the RFID tag transceivers;

8 an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for
9 mounting on a person; and

10 a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
11 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
12 transceiver and the tag transceivers exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person
13 handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged object;

14 wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that
15 said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles a
16 tagged object, no other tagged object being handled by any other person is within reliable two-way
17 communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

1 12. (amended) An RFID interrogator [Interrogator] apparatus [according to claim 10,] having an
2 adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the
3 closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, wherein each tagged object has a respective RFID
4 tag transceiver attached thereto, comprising:

5 an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
6 which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any
7 of the RFID tag transceivers;

8 an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for
9 mounting on a person; and

10 a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the

11 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
12 transceiver and the tag transceivers exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person
13 handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged object;

14 wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that
15 said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles a
16 tagged object, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way communication range of the
17 interrogator transceiver.

1 16. (amended) [A] An RFID tag [according to claim 15,] having an adjustable two-way
2 communication range so as to permit a person operating an RFID interrogator transceiver to
3 individually interrogate the tag without interrogating other RFID tags which are more distant from the
4 interrogator transceiver, comprising:

5 an RFID tag transceiver adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein the tag transceiver is
6 characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way
7 communications range between the tag transceiver and any RFID interrogator transceiver; and

8 a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
9 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver
10 and any interrogator transceiver exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a
11 tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, between said interrogator transceiver and the tag
12 transceiver;

13 wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that
14 said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles the
15 tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, no other tagged object being handled by any
16 other person is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

1 17. (amended) [A] An RFID tag [according to claim 15,] having an adjustable two-way
2 communication range so as to permit a person operating an RFID interrogator transceiver to
3 individually interrogate the tag without interrogating other RFID tags which are more distant from the
4 interrogator transceiver, comprising:

5 an RFID tag transceiver adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein the tag transceiver is
6 characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way
7 communications range between the tag transceiver and any RFID interrogator transceiver; and

8 a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
9 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver
10 and any interrogator transceiver exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a

11 tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, between said interrogator transceiver and the tag
12 transceiver;

13 wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that
14 said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles the
15 tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way
16 communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

1 20. (amended) [A] An RFID system [according to claim 19,] having an adjustable two-way
2 communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality
3 of nearby tagged objects, comprising:

4 a plurality of tagged objects, wherein each tagged object includes a respective RFID tag
5 transceiver attached thereto;

6 an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
7 which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any
8 of the RFID tag transceivers;

9 an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for
10 mounting on a person; and

11 a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
12 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
13 transceiver and the tag transceivers exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person
14 handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged object;

15 wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that said
16 reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles a tagged
17 object, no other tagged object being handled by any other person is within reliable two-way
18 communication range of the interrogator transceiver.

1 21. (amended) [A] An RFID system [according to claim 19,] having an adjustable two-way
2 communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality
3 of nearby tagged objects, comprising:

4 a plurality of tagged objects, wherein each tagged object includes a respective RFID tag
5 transceiver attached thereto;

6 an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
7 which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any
8 of the RFID tag transceivers;

9 an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for

10 mounting on a person; and

11 a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
12 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
13 transceiver and the tag transceivers exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person
14 handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged object;

15 wherein the control logic circuit adjusts said at least one of the performance parameters so that
16 said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said person handles a
17 tagged object, no other tagged object is within reliable two-way communication range of the
18 interrogator transceiver.

1 25. (amended) [A] An RFID system [according to claim 24,] having an adjustable two-way
2 communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality
3 of nearby tagged objects, comprising:

4 an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna adapted for mounting on a person; and
5 a plurality of RFID tags, each tag being adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein each
6 tag includes

7 an RFID tag transceiver which is characterized by a set of one or more performance
8 parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and the
9 RFID interrogator transceiver, and

10 a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
11 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver
12 and the interrogator transceiver exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a
13 tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, between said interrogator transceiver and the tag
14 transceiver of said RFID tag;

15 wherein the control logic circuit of each RFID tag adjusts said at least one of the performance
16 parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said
17 person handles the tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, no other tagged object being
18 handled by any other person is within reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator
19 transceiver.

1 26. (amended) [A] An RFID system [according to claim 24,] having an adjustable two-way
2 communication range so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality
3 of nearby tagged objects, comprising:

4 an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna adapted for mounting on a person; and
5 a plurality of RFID tags, each tag being adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein each

6 tag includes

7 an RFID tag transceiver which is characterized by a set of one or more performance
8 parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and the
9 RFID interrogator transceiver, and

10 a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
11 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver
12 and the interrogator transceiver exceeds the closest distance, during times when said person handles a
13 tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, between said interrogator transceiver and the tag
14 transceiver of said RFID tag;

15 wherein the control logic circuit of each RFID tag adjusts said at least one of the performance
16 parameters so that said reliable two-way communications range is short enough so that, when said
17 person handles the tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, no other tagged object is within
18 reliable two-way communication range of the interrogator transceiver.